

# Methotrexate

## (Rheumatrex/Trexall)

## This medication is used to treat CROHN'S DISEASE

Included in a drug class called immunosuppressive antimetabolites

Works by reducing inflammation that leads to the symptoms of Crohn's Disease

### DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- Oral tablet or subcutaneous injection (under the skin) or intramuscular injection (into the muscle)
- Dose and frequency as prescribed by your provider

### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Nausea or vomiting
- Abnormal blood or liver tests
- Folate deficiency
- Increased risk of infection
- Rash, skin photosensitivity
- Rare liver or lung inflammation
- Birth defects and miscarriage (see below)

Some of these risks are increased when used in combination with an anti-TNF inhibitor for Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis

These rare risks are outweighed by potential complications of untreated inflammatory bowel disease

### ADDITIONAL TESTING AND MONITORING

Prior to starting this medication, your doctor may order:

- Blood counts, liver tests, test for inflammation (blood and/or stool test), pregnancy test, stool tests to rule out infection, and abdominal imaging and/or colonoscopy

While on this medication, your doctor may order:

- Blood counts and liver tests regularly to ensure safety
- Repeat tests for inflammation and abdominal imaging and/or colonoscopy to assess your response to treatment

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### OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- This medication should be **AVOIDED IN PREGNANCY**, and used cautiously in women of childbearing age with 2 forms of birth control
- When taking methotrexate, you should also take folic acid 1 mg every day.
- Make sure you are up to date on the following vaccinations: annual flu, pneumovax, Prevnar-13, tetanus, hepatitis A and B, and Shingrix (age >50)
- Avoid LIVE vaccines while on this medication
- This medication should be taken exactly as prescribed to properly treat your disease.
- Please contact your provider if you experience any signs or symptoms of infection
- Do not stop or hold this medication without contacting your gastroenterologist



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